

# THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1859.

By Authority.

## PROCLAMATION!

KAMEHAMEHA IV., of the Hawaiian Islands, King, to all Our loving subjects, and others to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:—

Be it known that We, in concurrence with Our House of Nobles, hereby appoint and proclaim Our Son, His Royal Highness the Prince of Hawaii, to be Our Successor and Heir to the Hawaiian Throne.

Done at Our Palace, at Honolulu, this third day of October, in the year of Our Lord 1859, and the fifth year of Our Reign.

(Signed,) KAMEHAMEHA.  
(Signed,) KAHEMAMU.  
By the King and Kuhina Nui.  
(Signed,) L. KAMEHAMEHA.

## EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF NOBLES.

Held in the Palace at Honolulu, Oct. 3d, 1859, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The House was called to order by the President, and prayer offered by the Rev. R. Armstrong. The Minister of Finance, alluding to the fact of some new Members of the House being present, moved that the Chancellor of the Kingdom, who was also present, should administer to them severally the oath prescribed by the Constitution.

The Honorable the Chancellor accordingly administered the oath to the Rev. R. Armstrong, D. D., to Mr. Charles Gordon Hopkins, to Mr. Charles R. Bishop, to Mr. D. Kalakaua, and to Mr. J. W. E. Maikai. Mr. John Richardson, also announced to be a member of the House of Nobles, was absent.

The Minister of Finance moved the appointment of a Committee to wait upon the King and announce to His Majesty that the House was convened and awaiting his pleasure.

Nominated—Prince Kamehameha, Mr. Gregg, and Mr. Bishop; and these gentlemen waited upon the King accordingly.

On motion of Prince Kamehameha, seconded by Mr. Wylie, Mr. Hopkins was requested to act as Secretary pro tem.

His Majesty entered and read the following speech:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF NOBLES:—

I have thought proper to convene you in special session in order to consult on a matter, which, in my judgment, relates to the highest welfare of the nation. In contemplation of a vacancy in the chief executive office, at all times liable to occur, it is important that the succession to the crown should be definitely established in a constitutional manner. To this subject I invite your attention, in the full confidence that the recommendation I am about to make will receive at your hands a hearty concurrence.

The Constitution points out the mode of procedure to be adopted, and I avail myself of the authority thus vested in me to designate my infant son, the Prince of Hawaii, as my heir and successor to the Throne. Your assent and cooperation in the measure are required, but I do not doubt your ready and loyal support, not only on grounds relating to the stability of the existing dynasty, but from motives intimately connected with the public good.

The King having left the House, it was moved and carried that a Committee be appointed to prepare a reply to His Majesty's speech, and Prince Kamehameha, Mr. Gregg and Mr. Bishop having been nominated, the House went into recess pending their absence.

The Committee returned and the House having come to order received its report of a Reply to the following effect:—

SIR:—Your Majesty's House of Nobles have, with the greatest respect, listened to the Royal Message which has emanated from the Throne to-day, and given it their most careful consideration.

They entirely concur in Your Majesty's sentiments in regard to the importance of establishing a royal succession, and most cordially express their willingness to unite with Your Majesty in declaring His Royal Highness the Prince of Hawaii the heir and successor to the Throne.

They take this occasion to express their sentiments of loyalty to Your Majesty, and to declare their wish to maintain the existing dynasty, in which is centered the best hopes of the Hawaiian nation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.  
D. L. GREGG,  
CHAS. R. BISHOP,  
L. KAMEHAMEHA.

HOUSE OF NOBLES, 3d October, 1859.

The Report was adopted unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Armstrong it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

Resolved, That the House of Nobles concur with His Majesty the King in appointing and proclaiming His Royal Highness the Prince of Hawaii, as the heir and successor of His Majesty to the Throne of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

It was then resolved that a deputation of the House should be appointed to wait upon the King to present to His Majesty the foregoing Reply with the subsequent Resolutions. Nominated Messrs. Haalele, Kapaka, Kanaina and Armstrong.

The House then adjourned sine die.

In the last number of the *Polynesian* (last paragraph of the leading article) referring to the rumors of the King's abdication, we said that they "are, we are happy to say, without foundation." We should have said "are now without foundation;" for the decision arrived at by the King in Council was done so only a few minutes before we went to press, and the hurry of getting out the paper, which had been delayed till noon, awaiting this decision, will account for any apparent ambiguity arising from the omission of a word.

By referring to the Royal Proclamation above, and to the Minutes of the Special Session of the House of Nobles on Monday last, (Oct. 3d,) it will be seen that His Royal Highness the Prince of Hawaii was, in conformity with the Constitution, declared Successor to the Throne of Kamehameha IV. whenever in the providence of God it should become vacant. It was a thoughtful and wise suggestion of an act that never should be left to the hazard.

The Honorable James W. Borden, Commissioner of the United States, had an audience of the King, on the 3d instant, and presented to His Majesty Richard H. Dana, Esquire, of Boston, who is on a voyage round the world, for the benefit of his health.

The "Dashways" meet at their rooms this evening at 7 1/2 o'clock.

We have in previous articles looked upon the decrease of the Hawaiian people more as a fact to be proven in regard to its extent and its speed, than in regard to the causes which may have conducted to it or the means by which it may be averted, and a normal state of fecundity and increase restored.

Let us then attempt a diagnosis of the disease, and perhaps the remedies may suggest themselves.

Whenever civilization approaches a barbarous country,—not with gradual steps through especially selected emissaries, but comes like a storm-cloud "butt foremost" over the land,—it cannot be but that evil and sin should be terribly mixed with the good which it brings. And the influence of the former on a savage and ignorant people is always more direct, inasmuch as they appeal to the senses and tickle the vanity of the barbarian, making him believe that civilization can be purchased by an imitation of its vices; whereas goodness appeals to a faculty that often has not a name, still less a place in the heart of the savage,—a faculty that must be early educated and often corrected by slow and dear-bought experience.

Among the evils which thus ride in the van or hang upon the flanks of civilization, and directly attack the physical stamina of a people, are often, and were in this case, syphilis and the still. How much the latter has contributed to the depopulation of the country, we have no authentic means of ascertaining; but we are inclined to think that, although drunkenness may have flourished under certain favorable conditions, in particular localities and at various periods, yet it never was, or could justly be classed, among the active and original causes of depopulation. No sooner had the representatives of the good obtained the lead of affairs, than drunkenness was at an early day declared to be a social nuisance and a civil tort, and the rendezvous of the drunkard were subjected to bonds and licenses, in order to regulate the evil and control it in a measure. But through a squeamishness, perhaps, of calling things by their proper names; through a prudishness, perhaps, that has imposed on no one; or perhaps, rather, through a want of perception of the dissimilarity between this and a country where civilization is home-bred, indigenous, and has numberless means of repressing an evil beside the statute book, and where public opinion marches in the interest of virtue and morality,—through these causes or others, equally as shortcoming, prostitution has been ignored and its seminaries have been "free of the city," unless their orgies verged into riot or disturbance of the peace.

We would not shrink, though we may shrink from the discussion of so revolting a subject. A people which knows not the evils that afflict it, cannot be expected to discover their remedies or co-operate to their removal. And it is certainly the duty of those who set themselves up as teachers in Israel and guides through the desert, to grapple with an evil under its own name and in its most formidable form, instead of disguising its hideousness and diverting attention by crying, "peace, peace!" when there is no peace.

We hasten to other evils which were, or still are, contributing in their degree to depopulate the country. We allude then briefly to the unsettled state of the land-tenures, growing steadily worse, more capricious and more exacting from the tenants, from the days of the conquest until a comparatively recent period. Before the conquest, the number of tenants and retainers was the measure of a chief's political standing and social consideration, and by living on his land he attended to its culture, protected his tenants, and his presence among them was a reasonable guarantee of the permanency of their tenures. But while the conquest on one side upset the previous order of things by depositing or exterminating the ancient families and dividing the lands and their tenants among the followers of the conqueror; yet, these new feudatories, instead of being permitted to retire to the lands with which the wars and the generosity of their Zuzerain had enriched them, were detained around his person, either as hostages for their own fealty, or for the actual service and protection of the sovereign, or allured by those numerous attractions which surround a court, however rude the people or the epoch in which it exists. While thus centralization drew the chiefs to the capital, their retainers went with them, and the lands and the tenants of these absentee lords, were subjected to all the extortions of their "mid-dlemen" (the *konahikis*) without receiving any of the favor or protection that usually flowed from the presence of the chief. The aggregation and conversion of small holdings, under resident chiefs, into large estates under absentee ones, to be sold or be leased to the foreigner, or be subject to exactions unknown theretofore, wrought agricultural ruin and depopulation in Hawaii, as it had wrought it before in Rome and in Egypt, in Ireland and the Highlands.

In the meanwhile commerce and civilization had brought new sources of wealth, new standards of respectability, and the tenants left their lands by family families as by individuals for the seaports, as moths are drawn to the candle, and were swallowed up in the vortex of dissipation at home, or left for foreign lands never more to return, and the mournful "*cha till sin rule*" (we return no more) of the Gael found a fearful echo in the valleys of this land.

So thorough and so deep-felt was this insecurity of the land tenures that even the *kuleana* system—that noblest and most enduring memorial of the truly royal heart of Kamehameha III.—is only just now slowly beginning to be appreciated, and refuse, as it ought to do, hope, energy and reliance in the native. So deep-rooted was the dread of the power of the chief, so acute the want of his protection, that even now, ten years after the event, very many of the small *kuleana* holders (freeholders) are loth to believe in their own good fortune, and that the King and the Chiefs may not, and will not, at any moment, dispossess them of the gift.

Speaking of this cause of depopulation, J. J. Jarvis says, in 1847 (History of the Hawaiian Islands, and whom no one then would accuse of enmity to the chiefs):

"With a selfishness, paralleled only by the recklessness of those beneath them, the chiefs partitioned the entire country among themselves, so that at this present time, notwithstanding the many fluctuations of property and the increase of knowledge, there are not over 600 owners of soil throughout the kingdom and less than twelve persons hold the great bulk of it."

This in itself would not have been so great an evil, had it not been combined with a system aggravated from the past, which in spirit declared that the chief was everything, the people nothing. Not content to spare their goods that they might receive a golden egg per day, they essayed to kill it, that they might get it all at once. The native historians of this period, say, that from Liholiho's time the chiefs left caring for the people. Their attention was turned to themselves and their immediate aggrandizement. The people became more oppressed than even in ancient times. Novel taxes were inflicted and new crimes invented which bore a fruitful crop of fines and confiscations. Besides the soil, the chiefs claimed the entire right to all that was on it; even the very stones were not spared if they could be made convertible to property: the fishing grounds were seized and even fruit trees, not with the purpose of preserving and fostering them for the common benefit of themselves and tenants, but to get from them and their people the greatest amount in the shortest time. The present was the only moment—the future entered not into their calculations. As far as the future entered not into their calculations, particularly in lands, the true source of national industry was extinguished. A common man had no "home." Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that depopulation was not stayed nor immorality decreased. The relation between tyrants and slaves is ever fruitful of crimes in the one and vice in the other. The serf, under a hand, secure in no fruits of his own handiwork or industry, met the rapacity of his chief and his selfish claims to lands he had never tiller by cunning, deceit or evasion.—He was characterized by lying, theft and petty dishonesty which we find so prevalent among the present generation. They are the natural fruits of the wicked system of land monopoly with all its attendant crimes, which their chiefs so fully carried out. Not the least of the evils arising from this policy, was the unsettled character it gave the entire population. Possessing no permanent rights in the soil, or such as were not respected they ceased to have permanent residences. Leaving their native homes, they flocked to whatever points offered the greatest inducements, chiefly seaports."

Among other causes injuriously affecting the physique of the people was undoubtedly the change in the habits of dress and living, incident to their transition; but which change, with a people so imitative, naturally followed closer in the steps of civilization than the knowledge, care and cleanliness required to render it harmless, or at least not fatal in its effects. How often have we not seen a Hawaiian woman decked out with all the elaborate ornaments of an European toilette, but still ignorant as a child of the commonest prudence to counteract or avert its deforming and injurious tendencies. And the passion of the females to ride a straddle on horseback in all weather, and under all circumstances of their own being, tended not a little to destroy both the power and the results of their fecundity.

When to these apparently fixed causes of depopulation is added the incidental causes of wars and pestilence in their various forms, which have decimated this people at ever recurring, though unequal, periods since the days of Cook, and which obtained intensity from the white man's knowledge, or sprung up in the foot-prints of the passing foreigner, there is little room for astonishment at a decrease of 75 per cent. in eighty years. Premising that new diseases always rage more fearfully at their first introduction into any country, before the population has become acquainted with them, and before their nature and remedies become generally known, it is rather a matter of surprise and devout thanksgiving that the whole race has not been swept off by the unceasing, pitiless pelt of calamities, which seem to have prevented all chance of repose and recovery from the evil consequences in which its own ignorance, imprudence and quackery had plunged it. Civilization here, like every where else, was a Procrustes' bed to the savage; but here, unlike many other places, the elasticity of the native and the gentleness of the temper of the Hawaiian made him survive the ordeal, and with time and good treatment, there is no reasonable doubt of his recovery.

It remains now for us to show what has been done to avert or remedy these causes of depopulation, with the results of such measures; and to approve where experience has proved the benefit, or to comment where the contrary.

## THE PAST WEEK.

Return of His Majesty to Lahaina.

On Monday afternoon last His Majesty the King and suite returned to Lahaina in the schooner *Maria*, Capt. Motono, where we understand it to be His Majesty's pleasure to remain a short time.

Supreme Court.

The October Term of the Supreme Court opened on Monday, the 3d instant, Justice Robertson presiding, Chief Justice Allen being indisposed.

King vs. Dyack, a Chinaman. Ash. B. Bates for the Crown, and Mr. Blair for the defense. Prisoner charged with assault with a deadly weapon, in pursuing a Portuguese with a hand axe—was acquitted.

King vs. J. Wilkinson, of the "World's End" hotel. Mr. Bates for prosecution, Mr. Blair for defense. Defendant was charged with selling liquor on Sunday and had been convicted and fined \$100 in the Police Court. On appeal the judgment of the Court below was confirmed.

Tuesday, 4th.—The Court was chiefly occupied in hearing motions, etc. Judges Allen and Robertson present.

Wednesday, 5th. J. Tilmor vs. Thomas Spencer. Assumpsit, for moneys had and received for plaintiff's use. Messrs. Montgomery and Harris for the plaintiff. Mr. Bates for the defendant. This was what has become familiar to Honolulu juries as the "old Nile case." Plaintiff claimed to have owned one eighth of the ship *Nile* at the time she was seized and sold in 1854, at suit of defendant, to recover the value of supplies furnished by him to the *Walter Claxton* another vessel belonging to Bailey and Gilbert, the supposed owners of the *Nile*.

Verdict for plaintiff for one eighth part of the proceeds received by defendant with interest from that time, say \$1,300.

Thursday, 6th.—Henry Macfarlane vs. Peter Larkin, appeal from the Police Court. This was an action for damages sustained by the collision of a bullock cart driven by defendant's servant, with plaintiff's carriage. The Police Magistrate had awarded \$53 75 damages to Mr. Macfarlane. Defendant appealed.

Mr. Montgomery for Plaintiff; Mr. Blair for defendant. This case, as the one preceding, occupied the entire day. The jury went out about 7 1/2 o'clock and almost immediately returned with a verdict confirming the judgment of the Court below.

Friday and Saturday.—The Court heard sundry motions. On Monday the cases for the native jury will be tried.

The Hawaiian whale ship *Cynthia*, is to sail on Thursday next. She will probably be absent about twelve months. Captain Sherman, who is part owner, still sticks to his post, and we expect he will be among the "high hooks" whenever or wherever reported.

Our Whaleness' Shipping List will be found on the fourth page.

## AMUSEMENTS.

Since the days when Abel and Cain set up a bear garden and quarrelled over the proceeds, amusements have formed an integral element in the constitution of the human mind, and "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is a proverb as old as the pyramids. From the Esquimaux in the north to the Hottentots in the South, there is a craving for amusement and relaxation from the thread-mill routine in which man's necessities or his vices are constantly "keeping his nose to the stone." The want is one and universal, but the manner and the means of satisfying that want are as varied as the figures in a kaleidoscope; and in this we distinguish the superiority of the civilized man over the savage.

Assuming these things to be social axioms, we cannot waste more time in describing the amusements of antiquity, in order to exhibit the relation between the modern thimble-rig or Punch and Judy and their ancient prototypes in the streets of Athens or the corridors of the Circus Maximus. Perhaps some day the classical Professor at Panahou will deliver a lecture upon English amusements and their pedigrees—his ability is undoubted, and he may find time during the next vacation.

Here in Honolulu we are an amusing set of people. When the summer brings leisure, and leisure brings *ennui*, we move about like the fabled Lotos eaters of old. A drive to Waikiki, a bath in the sea, and hanging ourselves out to dry on the soft beach-sand, we

"Watch the rippling ripples on the beach,  
And tender curling lines of creamy spray;  
And lend our hearts and spirits wholly  
To the influence of mild-maiden melancholy."

and our amusements are of the quiet, domestic, dreamy kind with hardly enough of breath in their body to wait a gossip across the street.

But no sooner do the first whalers appear and, *bangue malgre*, we find ourselves up to our ears in business, than entertainments and amusements come like fairy gifts, brilliant, charming, and all that, but evanescent as a sunbeam in a storm: and between business and pleasure we are in a whirl of occupation.

We have no time just now to enlarge upon the above singularity in our disposition and habits; we must hurry on to the object of our present writing, which was in connection with amusements, to mention the expected arrival, by the next vessel, of a company of performers—not on the bones or the banjo, but—on the SWISS BELLS. The company consists of three gentlemen and one lady, and are known in the musical world as the

## ALLEGHANIANS or the SWISS BELL-RINGERS.

and the dexterity and skill with which they are said to "knock seven bells" out of their instruments is represented as really wonderful, not to speak of the "sweet melody of sounds" which cannot fail to please a community so musical as ours.

## Wreck of the Clipper Bark Melita.

By the arrival of the bark *Bhering*, Capt. Gelliat, from the Amoor River and Petropaulovski in 22 days, we learn that the American bark *Melita*, Capt. Polleys, was lost at the head of the Gulf of Tartary, off Cape Catherine, near the entrance of the Amoor river, while in charge of the pilot, on June 22d last. No lives lost. The vessel bilged and is a total loss. One of the river schooners was occupied in wrecking, and it was expected that the greater portion of the cargo would be saved, though in a damaged state.

Capt. Polleys and the officers of the *Melita* had gone to San Francisco in the American schooner *Louis Perry*, and one of the crew has come to this port in the *Bhering*. The remainder of the crew had gone to Hakodadi in a Russian steamer.

The *Bhering* left the following vessels at Nicolagofsky: Aug. 18, *Brig Hero*, from Honolulu, and the schooner *Emma* from San Francisco.

## Rather Hard.

A young friend of ours who has lately returned here from San Francisco on a visit to his relatives had his name placed in joke by the shipping masters there upon the vessel's articles. On arrival he found by the laws of the United States he could not leave the vessel here without paying the U. S. Consul \$30 00, that amount being required in discharging men, and had to give bonds he will leave the port in 60 days, and not come upon the Hawaiian Government for support. The waggish shipping masters on learning the trouble they have put their friend to, will no doubt refund the amount he has been obliged to pay—*Si non vero, a ben trovato*.

## Laughable.

The master of a schooner which has recently sailed from here to islands of the Pacific, was talking with an old friend, Capt. James of the water boat, near Severance's store the other day, and thought the price he charged for water was excessive. "Not so," said Capt. James, "there is no one in the business but me, and I hardly make a living." "How so," says the Captain, looking up and pointing to the "Emporium" opposite, "isn't that your office? and I see a lot more of Waterhouses in the other streets." James faints, and recovered only by application of Hoffman's Real Parisian Lubin's Extract vigorously to his system.

## Noteworthy.

The *S. F. Mercantile Gazette* is quite elated at the idea that the whaler *William Wirt*, of New Bedford, had obtained all her supplies of stores, water, &c., in twenty-four hours, and to cap the climax, "had not lost a man by desertion during the twenty-four hours of detention."

That is really very good for San Francisco, "considering." Here in Honolulu we have known whalers, however, to lay two months and not lose a man by desertion. But then, Rome was not built in a day, and beginning so well, there can be little doubt that, by the time whaling is done for in this ocean, San Francisco will be able to bid high for the favors of the whalers.

## Accident at Sea.

We are pained to learn that the estimable lady of Capt. Bryant, of whaler *America*, met with a serious accident, sometime in the early part of September, occasioned by the breaking away of a heavy work-bench during a gale of wind, which was pitched with great force to the lee-ward, bringing up against the lee rail of the ship, where Mrs. B. happened to be standing. For some days the worst consequences were apprehended, but dates as late as Sept. 25, report her as rapidly convalescing, and that no fears are entertained of a speedy and complete recovery.

We again make our best acknowledgements for late favors in the newspaper line to Messrs. McRuer & Merrill, J. W. Sullivan, Chas. Walcott Brooks and W. F. Ladd, all of San Francisco, and to Hackfeld & Co. of this city.

The ship *Eliot & Ella* sails to-day for Hongkong with the balance of the Chinese passengers of the burnt ship *Matif*. G. Clifford, Esq., also one of the rescued passengers, goes down to Hongkong in the *Eliot & Ella*.

Among other omissions in last week's issue of this paper, which we regret and apologize for, were our acknowledgments for shipping memoranda to Capt. Hunting of the ship *Jefferson*, and Capt. Lassen of the schooner *Rosalita*.

The shipping Memoranda has been omitted necessarily, owing to the crowded state of our columns.

Our California advices inform us that our next Atlantic mail will probably be received by the *Northern Light*.

## Late and Important from China.

SEVERE BATTLE.—THE ENGLISH FORCES DISASTROUSLY DEFEATED.—From the San Francisco *Times* we learn that the bark *Sun Nymph* arrived at Victoria, V. I., on the 13th ult., 37 days from Hongkong, with files of China papers up to the day of sailing. The news is important.

The British naval forces at the mouth of the Pei-ho made an attack upon the Chinese on the 25th of June, and were disastrously defeated. The fleet consisted of 12 vessels, mounting 28 guns and manned by 1,000 to 1,200 men.

There were 7 officers killed, and 23 wounded. The affairs seem to have grown out of a misunderstanding of the preliminaries to the exchange of treaties between the allied ministers and the Chinese authorities, consequent upon an attempt was made by Admiral Hope to force the passage of the Pei-ho.

The North China  *Herald* says that the total loss is as follows:—British, 4 killed and wounded, 464; French, 4 killed and 10 wounded (including Captain Traill of the *Chayle*, wounded in the arm.)

A correspondent of the *China Mail* (Hongkong) says: The belief is universal throughout the squadron that Europeans manned the batteries, as well as Chinese. Men in grey coats with close cropped hair and with Russian features, were distinctly visible in the batteries, and the whole of the fortifications were evidently designed by Europeans.

The lamentable intelligence we have to convey by this mail is a new difficulty with the Chinese mail companies, which led to an attack on the 25th of June from and upon the Taku forts at the mouth of the Pei-ho, resulting in the total defeat of the British force, with the loss of no less than five gunboats, and between four and five hundred men, or about one-third of our force employed.

This matter will form a subject of Parliamentary discussion. The Hon. Mr. Bruce has not the power to collect troops for carrying on a war with China; and if he applies for assistance, as it is reported he has done, to the Governor-General of India, we trust that Lord Canning will not comply with the request until Mr. May's government have had time to examine into the whole affair. There is more in it than meets the eye, and the most intelligent in this country—those the best acquainted with the Chinese—are indisposed to believe that the Chinese are entirely to be blamed.

## Five Days later.

By the ship *Maria*, arrived at this port from Hong Kong, we have dates to Aug. 9. From the Overland Mail we quote:

Since then matters have gone from bad to worse, and more unsatisfactory tidings than this mail contains, have never perhaps taken form in China. In the first place, as to the effect of the Pei-ho disaster upon political relations. The dispatch of Sanguolin, the Tartar Generalissimo, (a translation whereof is affixed,) duly appeared in the *Pekin Gazette*. This completely fastens upon the Chinese a declaration of treachery, for whilst the Generalissimo boasts of the conception and perpetration of the deed, the High Commissioners had studiously by their fair promises completely discarded all ideas of resistance from the minds of the members of the foreign Legation.

Since the defeat, the British and French Ministers have wisely forbore to negotiate with the Chinese authorities either directly or otherwise, and are evidently awaiting instructions from their respective governments.

Nothing has been heard from the United States Minister since the dispatch of the last mail. He certainly proceeded north of the Pei-ho to the point indicated by the Chinese authorities where an officer of rank would meet and convey him to Peking. The Chinese have it that he has actually proceeded thither; which would appear very probable.

Of Russian complicity to the disaster at Takow, there can be no doubt whatever. The Cantonese ever that Russian engineers built the forts, Russian guns armed them and Russian artillerymen manned them.

The Coolie trade was breeding disturbance and imprinting disgrace on the civilized nations engaged in it.

## Japan.

The state of affairs at Japan has assumed a most unsatisfactory position, and cannot be viewed without much anxiety. Mr. Alcock, the British Consul General, duly proceeded to Yeddo, where he was well received, and where he effected the interchange of treaties on the 11th of July, with all the publicties and courtesy which could be desired or expected. Lusted, however, of the Japanese authorities proceeding to carry out the treaty, they attempt to evade it in the most bar-faced manner conceivable, and whether their motive power be repugnancy or avarice, it is difficult to say. The points on which the Japanese seek to violate the treaty, although only two in number, still involve such vital principles that it is impossible for the Consul General to yield them. In the first place, instead of making Kanagawa, (a convenient spot close to Yeddo,) the residence of foreigners as agreed upon, the Japanese have prepared an island some ten miles from Yeddo, where they wish to exercise the same surveillance as they have done for so many years at Desima. The second attempt to violate the treaty consists in the currency question. The trick they now play will explain the system. The old itabon was worth 33 cents. A new one has been coined exclusively for foreign dealings, which by weight and purity is worth 50 cents. The arrangement seemed very fair, as it was supposed the new coin would be a *bona fide* currency. True the Japanese were compelled to take this coin from foreigners, but it was forbidden to pass current amongst the natives themselves—so that all a Japanese could do with the new coin was to take it to the Treasury, where he would receive one old itabon (33 cents) for two new itabons (one dollar). It is needless to say the result would be that every Japanese merchant would be compelled in dealing with foreigners, to charge three times the market rate for everything he sold, to make up this monstrous extortion. It will of course be observed that such a trick could not be played unless exchange worked against the foreigner, which prevents the export of the precious metals. The Consul General, who was still at Yeddo, had issued a protest, and had in fact stopped the trade.

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